In the claims:

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are presented below with changes shown. Please cancel claim 25 without prejudice

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for producing documents comprising:

associating an identifier with each data record in a data stream at a first computer, the identifier indicating a type of information included within a data record;

associating each identifier with a format region, each format region defining an area on a document page;

specifying parameters for each format region, where the parameters include formatting instructions relating to the presentation of the data records in a document at a second computer; and

formatting each data record within the corresponding format region according to the parameters specified at the second computer.

2.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1 wherein formatting instructions are specified for each format region.

3.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the parameters include data to be formatted in the document.

4.   (Original)   The method of claim 1 further comprising printing the document.

5.   (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein the identifier is placed at the start of each data record.

6.   (Original)   The method of claim 5 wherein the identifier is a fixed length character string or a variable length character string with a one or two byte field delimiter.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1

wherein ~~said associating an identifier with each data record in a data stream is~~ ~~performed on a first computer,~~

~~wherein said specifying parameters for each identifier in the data stream and said~~ ~~formatting each data record according to the parameters specified for the identifier are~~ ~~performed on a second computer,~~

~~and~~ the first and second computers are connected over a communications network.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1

~~wherein said associating an identifier with each data record in a data stream is~~ ~~performed on a first computer,~~

~~wherein said specifying parameters for each identifier in the data stream is~~ ~~performed on a second computer,~~

wherein said formatting each data record according to the parameters specified for the identifier is performed on a third computer, and

wherein the first, second and third computers are connected over a communications network.

9.   (Original)   The method of claim 8, wherein the second computer does not have access to the data stream.

10.   (Currently Amended) A method of formatting documents comprising:

receiving a data stream in which each data record therein is associated with an identifier indicating a type of information included within a data record at a first computer;

associating each identifier with one of the one or more format regions, each format region defining an area on a document page;

receiving a set of parameters, where one or more parameters of the set of parameters correspond to each format region, where the set of parameters include information relating to the presentation of the data records in a document;

formatting each data record within a corresponding format region at a second computer and creating the document by applying the one or more parameters corresponding to each identifier to each data record associated with the identifier.

11.   (Original)   The method of claim 10, wherein the document is sent to a printer for printing.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the parameters include data to be formatted in the document.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein formatting instructions are specified for each of the one or more format regions.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein each data record formatted within a format region of the first type is repeated at the beginning of each page of the document.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein each data record formatted within a format region of the second type is repeated at the end of each page of the document.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein each data record formatted within a format region of the third type is repeated on each page of the document above a grouping of related data records formatted within a format region of the forth type until all of the grouping of related data records have been formatted.

17. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

specifying parameters corresponding to each of one or more format regions at a first computer , the parameters specify formatting instructions for one or more data records, and a plurality of parameters define a set of parameters;

associating each identifier with one of the one or more regions defining an area on

a document page at a second computer, wherein each data record is formatted within the

one or more format regions, an identifier indicating a type of information included within

a data record;

receiving the data stream, where each data record of the one or more data records

therein is associated with each identifier of the one or more data records; and

creating a document by applying the one or more parameters corresponding to

each identifier to each data record of the one or more data records associated with the

identifier.

18.   (Cancelled)

19.   (Original)   The method of claim 17 wherein the set of parameters are

sent to a formatter over a communications network.

20.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 17 wherein formatting

instructions may be specified for each of the one or more format regions.

21.   (Cancelled)

22.   (Cancelled)

23.   (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions, which when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the following:

receiving a data stream in which each data record therein is associated with an identifier indicating a type of information included within a data;

associating each identifier with one of the one or more format regions at a first computer, each format region defining an area on a document page;

receiving a set of parameters, where one or more parameters of the set of parameters correspond to each format region, where the set of parameters include information relating to the presentation of the data records in a document;

formatting each data record within a corresponding format region and creating the document by applying the one or more parameters corresponding to each identifier to each data record associated with the identifier at a second computer.

25. (Cancelled)